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2/19/022813

J. Hayes
PATENT
5298-04100/PM00012

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Group Art Unit: 2813
Examiner: Pham, T.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

Filed: September 14, 2000

For: METHOD OF FORMING SELF
ALIGNED CONTACTS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: **Box: Non-Fee Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

December 21, 2001
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

AMENDMENT; RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/ Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2001 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Please replace claims 1, 5, 7, 11-13, 17, and 19-20 with the amended claims below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.